

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 3 October 2018 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to the letter dated 9 August 2018 from Ambassador Karen Pierce, I have the honour to confirm that the members of the Security Council have agreed to send a mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo from 5 to 7 October 2018. The members have agreed on the terms of reference of the mission (see annex).

The mission will be co-led by Ambassador François Delattre (France), Ambassador Job Obiang Esono Mbengono (Equatorial Guinea) and Ms. Verónica Cordova Soria, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

Following consultations with the members, it has been agreed that the composition of the mission will be as follows:

Ms. Verónica Cordova Soria (Bolivia (Plurinational State of))
Ambassador Wu Haitao (China)
Ambassador Gbolié Desiré Wulfran Ipo (Côte d'Ivoire)
Ambassador Job Obiang Esono Mbengono (Equatorial Guinea)
Ambassador Mahlet Hailu Guadey (Ethiopia)
Ambassador François Delattre (France)
Mr. Kanat Tumysh (Kazakhstan)
Ambassador Mansour Alotaibi (Kuwait)
Ambassador Karel van Oosterom (Netherlands)
Ambassador Francisco Tenya (Peru)
Ambassador Joanna Wronecka (Poland)
Mr. Dmitry A. Polyanskiy (Russian Federation)
Ambassador Olof Skoog (Sweden)
Ambassador Stephen Hickey (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Mr. Austin M. Smith (United States of America)

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sacha Sergio Llorentty Soliz
President of the Security Council



Annex to the letter dated 3 October 2018 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

Terms of reference of the Security Council mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo

1. The Security Council will carry out its mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo from 5 to 7 October 2018 within the framework of resolution 2409 (2018), the press statements dated 13 August, 22 March and 16 January 2018 and the joint communiqué dated 19 July 2018 issued by members of the Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council.

2. The members of the mission will meet the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Prime Minister and members of the Government, leaders of the main political groupings and parties, the Independent National Electoral Commission and the Congolese National Episcopal Conference, as well as civil society organizations, including women's organizations, and the leadership of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), among others.

3. In line with the framework set out in paragraph 1 above, the Security Council will:

(a) Welcome the steps taken recently in the electoral process, call upon the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Independent National Electoral Commission and all stakeholders to work together towards the holding of elections on 23 December 2018 and underline the importance of the entire Congolese political class and the institutions responsible for organizing inclusive, credible and transparent elections remaining committed to ensuring the successful conclusion of the electoral process, leading to a peaceful transfer of power, in accordance with the Constitution and the political agreement of 31 December 2016;

(b) Encourage all Congolese stakeholders to create all conditions necessary to ensure an environment conducive to the peaceful and inclusive conduct of political activities and that the elections take place with the requisite conditions of transparency, credibility and inclusivity and security, including the full and effective participation of women at all stages, and are conducted in accordance with the Constitution and international obligations;

(c) Encourage the Independent National Electoral Commission to ensure that any request to MONUSCO for logistical and technical support is made without further delay in order to enable it to provide its support, reaffirm the readiness of the United Nations to support the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the organization of presidential, legislative and provincial elections and, if necessary, clarify plans for national and international observation of the elections;

(d) Stress that the effective, swift and sincere implementation of the political agreement of 31 December 2016, including the agreement's confidence-building measures, as well as respect for fundamental rights and the electoral timeline, are essential for peaceful and credible elections on 23 December, a democratic transition of power and the peace and stability of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

(e) Assess the security situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the ability of MONUSCO to implement its mandate in accordance with resolution 2409 (2018) and, in particular, to respond to current and ongoing security threats;

(f) Express deep concern regarding the persistence of violence in some parts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in particular Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu and the Kasais, as well as regarding the humanitarian situation in the country;

(g) Assess whether the mechanisms for intra-mission coordination have been strengthened for the protection of civilians, as well as assess progress in the implementation of the measures taken to transform MONUSCO and improve its performance in implementing its mandate;

(h) Encourage the Government to take further action, in accordance with national and international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, as applicable, and with the support of MONUSCO in accordance with its mandate, to end the threat posed by armed groups, especially the Allied Democratic Forces;

(i) Welcome regional initiatives and efforts to enhance cooperation towards the neutralization of armed groups in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo in support of MONUSCO and the Government, and encourage further action against individuals and organizations who engage in the illegal exploitation of natural resources;

(j) Urge the Government to hold accountable any actor responsible for violations of international humanitarian law or violations and abuses of human rights, as applicable, in particular those that may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity;

(k) Reiterate their full support for the Government, in particular the Ministry of Health, regarding the efforts to combat the Ebola outbreak, as well as the support of MONUSCO, United Nations agencies and international partners;

(l) Reiterate their full support for MONUSCO and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo in efficiently implementing their mandate in full;

(m) Express their determination to continue to closely follow the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in particular the security conditions on the ground and the efforts to successfully conclude the electoral process.